

REMARKS

This amendment is being filed in response to the final Office Action having a mailing date of August 1, 2005. Claims 2-3, 5-6, 8-12, 14-17, 19-20, and 22-24 are amended as shown. Claims 1, 7, 13, 18, and 21 are canceled herein without prejudice. No new matter has been added. With this amendment, claims 2-6, 8-12, 14-17, 19-20, and 22-24 are pending in the application.

In the final Office Action, claims 1, 5, 7-8, 12-15, 18, and 20-22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Knapp (U.S. Patent No. 4,241,316). Claims 2-4, 9-10, and 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Knapp.

The Examiner objected to claims 6, 11, 17, 19, and 23-24 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but indicated that these claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include the limitations of their base claims. The applicants thank the Examiner for this indication of allowable subject matter.

Accordingly, claims 6, 11, 17, 19, and 23 are rewritten in independent form and are now allowable, with their respective base claims 1, 7, 13, 18, and 21 now canceled. The various dependent claims have been amended, if appropriate, to change their dependency based on the newly independent claims. It is believed that all formal requirements have now been met and that the application is now therefore in condition for allowance.

Overall, none of the references singly or in any motivated combination disclose, teach, or suggest what is recited in the independent claims. Thus, given the above amendments and accompanying remarks, the independent claims are now in condition for allowance. The dependent claims that depend directly or indirectly on these independent claims are likewise allowable based on at least the same reasons and based on the recitations contained in each dependent claim.

If the undersigned attorney has overlooked a teaching in any of the cited references that is relevant to the allowability of the claims, the Examiner is requested to specifically point out where such teaching may be found. Further, if there are any informalities

or questions that can be addressed via telephone, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned attorney at (206) 622-4900.

The Director is authorized to charge any additional fees due by way of this Amendment, or credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 19-1090.

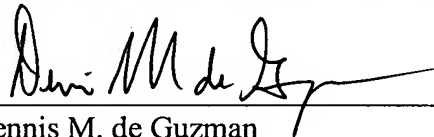
All of the claims remaining in the application are now clearly allowable. Favorable consideration and a Notice of Allowance are earnestly solicited.

The Director is authorized to charge any additional fees due by way of this Amendment, or credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 19-1090.

All of the claims remaining in the application are now clearly allowable. Favorable consideration and a Notice of Allowance are earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

SEED Intellectual Property Law Group PLLC



Dennis M. de Guzman
Registration No. 41,702

DMD:wt

Enclosure:
Postcard

701 Fifth Avenue, Suite 6300
Seattle, Washington 98104-7092
Phone: (206) 622-4900
Fax: (206) 682-6031

702146_1.DOC